United Nations S/2003/432

Security Council

Distr.: General
21 April 2003

Original: English

Letter dated 16 April 2003 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Germany to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith the assessment of the work of the Security Council during the presidency of Germany (February 2003) (see annex). This assessment was prepared on my own authority, but I have consulted other members of the Council before submitting it.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Hanns **Schumacher**
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Annex to the letter dated 16 April 2003 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Germany to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Assessment of the work of the Security Council during the presidency of Germany (February 2003)

Introduction

The month of February was a very busy month for the Security Council, as the question of Iraq moved to the forefront of the Council's deliberations.

In addition to nine informal consultations and two private meetings, the Security Council held nine public meetings, including two open debates, on Iraq and combating terrorism, in the spirit of enhancing the transparency of the Council's work.

There were no mandate renewals for United Nations peacekeeping missions in the month of February. The mandate for the United Nations Mission in Angola expired on 15 February. The Security Council adopted a resolution on the situation in Côte d'Ivoire which was taken up twice in informal consultations. A presidential statement was adopted after the public meeting on Kosovo. Also twice on the Council's agenda was the situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, including a briefing by the United Nations Secretariat and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, highlighting the critical human rights situation in the eastern part of that country. Furthermore, the Council heard the regular monthly briefings on the situation in Afghanistan (focused this time on the reform of the security sector) and the Middle East.

Africa

Angola

In informal consultations on 12 February, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Angola briefed members of the Council on the second report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Mission in Angola. The Mission's mandate expired on 15 February and was not renewed. Members of the Council expressed the view that the responsibility for the consolidation of the peace process in Angola now lies with the Government of Angola and that further internal dialogue is indispensable for national reconciliation. Members of the Council placed special emphasis on the tasks remaining in the areas of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration, mine clearance, human rights, and preparation for elections. Members of the Council agreed that the support of the international community and the United Nations is necessary, as well as efforts by Angola to address in particular humanitarian issues. Members of the Council agreed with the recommendation of the Secretary-General to entrust the UNDP Resident Coordinator in Angola with the tasks remaining from resolution 1433 (2002). Members of the Council agreed on elements of a statement to the press.

Democratic Republic of the Congo

The Security Council held two meetings with regard to the situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. At an open meeting on 13 February, members of the Council heard briefings by the Secretariat and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Sergio Vieira de Mello, on the situation of human rights in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The reports presented the general situation of human rights in the country, highlighted recent gross violations of human rights committed by the different forces operating there, and provided an update on the Kisangani massacres of 14 and 15 May 2002. Council members strongly condemned human rights violations in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and gave broad support to the High Commissioner's recommendations and conclusions. A detailed report of the High Commissioner on this matter was subsequently issued (S/2003/216).

In informal consultations on 26 February, members of the Council heard briefings by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Amos Namanga Ngongi, and the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Jean-Marie Guéhenno, on the Secretary-General's thirteenth report on the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC) (S/2003/211). It was stressed that the military situation on the ground remained unstable, in particular in the north-eastern part of the country. While security concerns hampered the verification work of MONUC, the humanitarian situation remained characterized by widespread insecurity, massive displacement and severely restricted humanitarian access.

Council members called on the Congolese parties to fully implement the power-sharing agreement signed in Pretoria in December 2002, and to establish the transitional government. Members of the Council also called on all Governments in the region to take confidence-building measures to promote security in the border areas. Members of the Council also strongly condemned a recent attack against a MONUC helicopter.

Côte d'Ivoire

The Security Council held two informal consultations on the situation in Côte d'Ivoire. On 4 February, members of the Council heard a briefing by the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Kieran Prendergast, in which they were informed that the situation had significantly deteriorated since the last briefing of the Council and that the emergence of hate media in particular gave rise to grave concern. Council members took note of the deployment of 680 troops of the Economic Community of West African States. Members of the Council reiterated that the Linas-Marcoussis Agreement of 23 January was the basis for a settlement of the conflict. The Council then proceeded to adopt resolution 1464 (2003) at a formal meeting.

On 21 February, the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs briefed the Security Council on the activities of the monitoring committee which was established pursuant to the Linas-Marcoussis Agreement. The committee held two meetings under the chairmanship of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Côte d'Ivoire. Members of the Council were also briefed on the observations of the Secretary-General's humanitarian envoy to Côte d'Ivoire, Carolyn McAskie. Council members agreed on elements of a statement to the press.

Asia

Iraq

On 5 February, at a public meeting at the ministerial level (attended by 12 Ministers for Foreign Affairs), the United States Secretary of State, Colin Powell, briefed the Council about intelligence information on programmes related to weapons of mass destruction in Iraq and the lack of readiness of the Government of Iraq to fulfil its disarmament obligations under the relevant Security Council resolutions. Members of the Council listened with attention to the presentation by the Secretary of State and made statements afterwards; some members of the Council expressed support for a strengthened inspections regime. All members of the Council urged Iraq to cooperate more actively with the inspectors and underlined the utmost importance of finding a solution within the Security Council. Furthermore, some members of the Council emphasized the importance of the forthcoming visit of Mr. Blix and Mr. ElBaradei to Baghdad.

On 14 February the Council held a public meeting at the ministerial level followed by a private meeting on Iraq. Eleven Ministers for Foreign Affairs attended. In updating their report of 27 January, Mr. Blix and Mr. ElBaradei briefed the Council about the outcome of their visit to Baghdad and the implementation of the inspections conducted in accordance with resolution 1441 (2002). They reported improved Iraqi cooperation on process but that, while some cooperation on substance was forthcoming, the required full cooperation on substance was still lacking. They expressed confidence that the inspectors could carry out their mandate successfully, while pointing out the necessity for Iraq to cooperate in a more proactive way. Members of the Council listened to the briefing with utmost interest and commended the inspectors on their work. Some delegations said that without Iraqi cooperation on substance inspections could not achieve the goal of disarmament. Other delegations said that the inspections were working, had already produced positive results and should be continued in an enhanced way.

On 18 and 19 February, at the request of members of the Non-Aligned Movement, the Council held an open debate on the situation in Iraq and Kuwait with the participation of 61 delegations. A significant number of delegations favoured the continuation of an enhanced inspections regime, urged Iraq to cooperate more actively in the implementation of its disarmament obligations and warned of the negative repercussions of any military operation. Other delegations emphasized that even a strengthened inspections regime would not bring about any changes without Iraqi cooperation on substance if Iraq did not show any willingness to disarm, and asked the Council to assume its responsibility under the relevant resolutions.

During consultations on 24 February, Spain, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America tabled a draft resolution stating that Iraq had failed to take the final opportunity afforded to it by resolution 1441 (2002). On the same day Germany, France and the Russian Federation had a memorandum circulated as a Council document in which the authors asked for a programme of action for the inspectors, reinforced inspections and specific timelines for the implementation of the programme.

During consultations on 27 February, some members reiterated their doubts about Iraq's willingness to cooperate in accordance with resolution 1441 (2002) and expressed themselves in favour of the new resolution tabled on 24 February. Other

members underlined the progress achieved through inspections, reiterated their full support for the work and action of Mr. Blix and Mr. ElBaradei and for the continuation of the activities to disarm Iraq peacefully on the basis of resolution 1441 (2002), and welcomed an accelerated submission of the programme of work for approval by the Council.

Situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question

The monthly briefing of the Security Council on the situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question, was given by the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs on 13 February. Subsequently, the Council held informal consultations. Some members expressed the view that rapid publication of the road map could bring a long-awaited renewed prospect for a political solution to the region. Members expressed their concern at the humanitarian situation in the Palestinian territories. The Security Council will continue to pay close attention to this issue also under present circumstances.

Afghanistan

On 24 February, the Council heard briefings by the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Ambassador Mutsuyoshi Nishimura of Japan and Ambassador Harald Braun of Germany. Their reports on the situation in Afghanistan focused on the reform of the security sector.

The Under-Secretary-General reported further achievements in the implementation of the Bonn process and pointed out the progress made in the constitutional process, as well as in the preparations for national elections scheduled for June 2004. In view of these difficult political decisions, he stressed the relevance of a security sector reform and of immediate measures to improve the current security situation. He thanked the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) and the States that had taken a lead role in the reform processes, and called upon the international community to continue its financial aid.

Ambassador Nishimura gave an account of the situation with regard to demobilization. He stated that progress had been made, and that the demobilization, disarmament and reintegration process would commence soon. Success in this area would depend greatly on a dedicated and unified collaboration of all regional and political leaders in Afghanistan. Ambassador Braun reported on advances in the reform of the police sector, including recruitment and the training of a national police. The support of the newly elected Minister of the Interior for this reform was welcomed. Members of the Council thanked UNAMA, Japan and Germany for their engagement in the areas of their respective sectoral leads. They noted the progress made so far and affirmed their continuing support in the matter while underlining once again the outstanding role that national security plays in the reconstruction of Afghanistan.

Europe

Kosovo

On 6 February, the Council heard a briefing by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on the situation in Kosovo and held an open debate on the

issue. The Special Representative provided the Council members with a benchmark baseline report on the status of implementation of the benchmarks for Kosovo in the following areas: functioning of the democratic institutions; the rule of law (police/judiciary); freedom of movement; sustainable returns and minority rights; the economy; property rights; dialogue with Belgrade; and the Kosovo Protection Corps. The Security Council authorized the President to make a statement, which was issued as S/PRST/2003/1.

Other issues

Combating terrorism

The Security Council held an open debate on 20 February on the item entitled "Threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts". This was a follow-up meeting to the ministerial meeting held on 20 January on the same question. Twenty-three non-Council member States used this opportunity to express their views on current efforts to enhance the fight against terrorism. A general commitment to strengthening the international coalition against terrorism within the framework of the United Nations, as specified in the ministerial declaration of 20 January (see resolution 1456 (2003)), was underlined. The special contribution and relentless efforts of the Counter-Terrorism Committee under the able chairmanship of Ambassador Sir Jeremy Greenstock were highlighted.

The States Members of the United Nations also underlined the importance of strengthening multilateral instruments to counter the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and dangerous materials with a view to preventing their falling into the hands of terrorists. They stressed that States, while combating terrorism, must uphold the rule of law, including international law and human rights, refugee and humanitarian law. The important role of international, regional and subregional organizations in the fight against terrorism was especially underlined and the initiative of the Counter-Terrorism Committee to hold a special meeting with such organizations at the beginning of March was highly appreciated.

General issues relating to sanctions

On 25 February, the Security Council heard a briefing by the State Secretary for Foreign Affairs of Sweden, Hans Dahlgren, on the results of the Stockholm Process on the Implementation of Targeted Sanctions. The Stockholm Process, initiated by Sweden in October 2001, focused on improving the implementation of sanctions by making effective use of targeted sanctions, which are a tool to focus pressure on targeted States and entities and minimize the unintended impact on civilian populations and non-targeted States and entities. During the debate, Council members recognized that the Stockholm Process had built on the results of previous efforts undertaken by Switzerland and Germany as well as on the ideas discussed in the working group on general issues relating to sanctions.

The first international debate on targeted sanctions, hosted by Switzerland in the Interlaken Process, focused on financial sanctions. The key results were a better understanding of the specific technical requirements of targeted financial sanctions, the elaboration of language modules and definitions. This debate progressed further in the Bonn-Berlin Process, under the auspices of Germany, concentrating on the

design and implementation of arms embargoes as well as travel- and aviation-related sanctions.

Council members welcomed Sweden's initiative of October 2001 to launch the Stockholm Process, which has provided a valuable contribution to the debate on how to strengthen the capacity of the United Nations system and of Member States to implement targeted sanctions. A number of concrete recommendations have been put forward to this effect. Members of the Council encouraged further discussion and work to refine the instrument of targeted sanctions.

Letter dated 14 February from the Secretary-General to the President of the Security Council

The Security Council held consultations on 19 February on the letter from the Secretary-General dated 14 February (S/2003/182), which transmitted a letter from the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) reporting to the Council the IAEA Board of Governors resolution of 12 February 2003 referring to the Safeguards Agreement between IAEA and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea pursuant to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. The Council decided to refer the matter to the respective experts and to revert to it at a later stage.

Working Group on Conflict Prevention and Resolution in Africa

On 28 February, the mandate of the Security Council Working Group on Conflict Prevention and Resolution in Africa was renewed until 31 December 2003 (see S/2003/235).